

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03602 230839Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15  
CEQ-01 /129 W

-----085365 230847Z /20/15

P 031032Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5672  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION USNATO  
USCINCEUR  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
CINCUSAFE  
CINCUSAREUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
USDOCOSOUTH  
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3602

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O., TAGS AND SUBJECT LINE ADDED)

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: GR, TU, PEPR, MNUC, PARM  
SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU ADVOCATES A NUCLEAR OPTION

REF: ATHENS 3224

1. WHILE PAPANDREOU CONFRONTS THE GOG AT ALMOST EVERY TURN,  
INCLUDING A STRONG LABOR DAY ATTACK ON GOG FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC  
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POLICIES, MOST DISTURBING THUS FAR HAS BEEN HIS CALL FOR GREECE  
TO PRODUCE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ORIGINALLY RAISED IN AN  
INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES (REFTEL), THIS INITIATIVE  
IS BEING NOURISHED NOT ONLY BY HIS OWN SUPPORTERS BUT ALSO  
BY SOME ELEMENTS OF WHAT PASSES FOR RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION PRESS  
HERE.

2. PAPANDREOU'S LATEST ATOMIC PRONOUNCEMENT WAS MADE IN A LONG APRIL 30 ARTICLE HE WROTE FOR LIBERAL TO VIMA ENTITLED "NATIONAL DEFENSE POLICY". FOR THE MOST PART THE ARTICLE IS A REHASH OF PAPANDREOU'S PAST CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO AND HIS PRESCRIPTIONS OF HOW GREECE AS A NON-ALIGNED STATE CAN THEN BEST MEET THE TURKISH THREAT. HOWEVER, PAPANDREOU VIGOROUSLY DEFENDS HIS SUGGESTION THAT GREECE BUILD TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO AVOID BEING HOPELESSLY DISADVANTAGED SHOULD TURKEY GAIN A NUCLEAR STRIKE CAPABILITY. AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE CREATION OF GREEK NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PAPANDREOU PROPOSES THE IDEA OF A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BALKANS, ADDING THAT GREECE SHOULD PUSH FOR SUCH A SOLUTION IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT PENDING SUCH AN AGREEMENT GREECE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO SEEK ITS OWN NUCLEAR FORCE.

3. COMMENT: MOST IMMEDIATELY DISTURBING ABOUT THIS NUCLEAR PROPOSAL IS WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT THE CURRENT MOOD AND MATURITY OF POLITICAL DEBATE IN GREECE, PARTICULARLY WHERE TURKEY IS CONCERNED. DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF'S ATTEMPTS TO ATTACK PAPANDREOU ON THIS ISSUE (REFTEL) HAVE NOT CAUSED MUCH DAMAGE, EVEN A LIBERAL, PRESUMABLY ENLIGHTENED NEWSPAPER BACKS THE OPPOSITION LEADER. THE PERCEIVED THREAT OF TURKISH EXPANSIONISM HAS BECOME A CENTRAL TRUTH TO MUCH OF THE GREEK PUBLIC, AND IN SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE PAPANDREOU'S NUCLEAR DEMOGOGUERY EARNS HIM POINTS.

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5. FINALLY, WE NOTE THAT PAPANDREOU'S CALL FOR A MEDITERRANEAN/ BALKAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IS BUT ANOTHER ISSUE (EC; NATO; US BASES) ON WHICH HIS FOREIGN POLICY PLATFORM RUNS COUNTER TO U.S. OBJECTIVES AND COINCIDES WITH THOSE OF THE SOVIET UNION. MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ADVANCED WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ATHENS03602  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED PER 78 ATHENS 5270  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Format:** TEL  
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**Message ID:** d92b4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 78 ATHENS 3224  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2509991  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PAPANDREOU ADVOCATES A NUCLEAR OPTION  
**TAGS:** ENRG, MNUC, PEPR, PCAT, PARM, GR, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d92b4693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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